

# Billboard

NEWSPAPER

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## POP

### ★ BLACK 47

#### **Trouble In The Land**

PRODUCERS: Stewart Lerman, Larry Kirwan  
Shanachie 5741

For many residents of New York, Black 47 is a cherished hometown treasure. Although the six-member Irish-hued band has, in its 10-year history, played in bars, clubs, and concert halls throughout America, Ireland, and the U.K., it remains something of a New York institution. Perhaps this is due to the band's weekly roof-raising performances at pubs like Paddy Reilly's and Connolly's. After four albums, two EPs, and countless gigs—as well as two attempts at playing the major-label game—Black 47 has aligned itself, once again, with an independent (naturally, one based in New York). Both political and humorous, “Trouble In The Land” is a wicked blend of Celtic music, ska, and roots rock. One song in particular, “Bodhrans On The Brain,” combines all these elements into a delicious whole. After one listen, '80s pop enthusiasts will most likely be dusting off their vintage copies of Dexy's Midnight Runners' “Come On Eileen”—which makes perfect sense, considering that Black 47's saxophonist, Geoffrey Blythe, was a founder of Dexy's.